

APPENDIX I: Inventory of Existing Regional Trails in Freedom's Way National Heritage Area

CRITERIA for inventory selection

Length – 3 miles or more; and/or connects at least two communities; off-road trails only (improved bikeway and/or hiking trail)

No potential/planned trails

Trails are to be mapped outside FWNHA boundary wherever feasible, so long as a portion extends from the heritage area

NOTE: This inventory shows fifteen existing regional trails in the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. It does not include planned/proposed regional trails or the many existing local trails maintained by towns and land trusts – consult local websites for information. For the sixteen towns served by the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition and the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, consult <http://www.mrpc.org/home/pages/community-trail-maps> (Ashburnham, Ashby, Ayer, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunenburg, Shirley, Sterling, Townsend, Westminster, and Winchendon). Owing to confusing data, in order to map the trails we found, we resorted to purchasing data from TrailLink.com. The list of “trails not shown in final map” immediately below is drawn from various searches yielding data that could not be mapped.

TRAILS SHOWN IN FINAL MAP

Massachusetts

- 1-Alewife Brook
- 2-Assabet River Rail Trail
- 3-Bedford Narrow Gauge Rail Trail
- 4-Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
- 6-Mass Central Rail Trail
- 7-Minuteman Bikeway
- 11-North Central Pathway
- 12-Northern Strand Community Trail
- 13-Reformatory Branch Trail

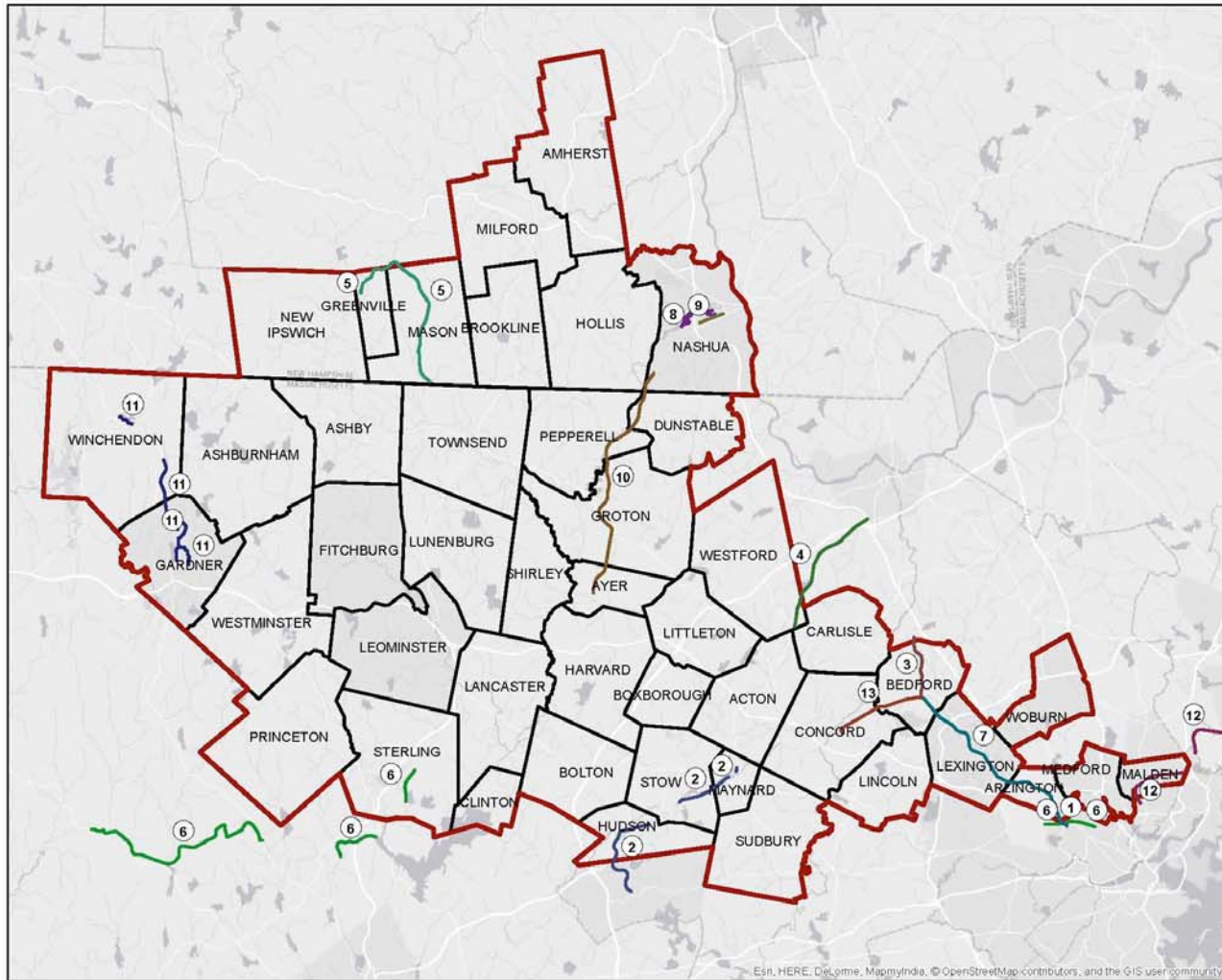
New Hampshire

- 5-Mason Railroad Trail
- 8-Nashua Canal Trail
- 9-Nashua Heritage Rail Trail
- 10-Nashua River Rail Trail

TRAILS NOT SHOWN IN FINAL MAP

- Bay Circuit Trail (MA)
- East Coast Greenway (MA, although a portion will pass through NH east of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area)
- Mid-State Trail (hiking trail)
- Minute Man National Historical Park/Battle Road Trail
- Wapack Trail (w/ Mt. Watatic Trail) (hiking trail)

Following is the final map plus a record of the searches made to create an inventory of regional trails.



Freedom's Way National Heritage Area

Management Plan

Existing Regional Trails and Rail-Trails

Data Sources: Heritage Strategies, Freedom's Way Heritage Association, Inc., Trailink.com accessed May 2015

- Project Study Area
- Town Boundaries

Trails

- 1 Alewife Brook
- 2 Assabet River Rail Trail
- 3 Bedford Narrow Gauge Rail Trail
- 4 Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
- 5 Mason Railroad Trail
- 6 Mass Central Rail Trail
- 7 Minuteman Bikeway
- 8 Nashua Canal Trail
- 9 Nashua Heritage Rail Trail
- 10 Nashua River Rail Trail
- 11 North Central Pathway
- 12 Northern Strand Community Trail
- 13 Reformatory Branch Trail

Battle Road Trail (Minute Man NHP), Midstate Trail, and Wapak Trail (includes Mt. Wataic Trail): see Appendix F for details.

Map prepared for the Freedom's Way Heritage Association, Inc.

Map prepared by Heritage Strategies, LLC and Washington College Center for Environment and Society

HERITAGE strategies

Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

Final Map #	MassEEA list of regional trails? ¹ EEA top priority? ²	Official Name in TrailLink.com	Distance	Towns	TrailLink.com Web Site (or other)/Notes
Massachusetts					
1		Alewife Brook	2	Arlington	https://www.traillink.com/trail/alewife-linear-parksomerville-community-path.aspx ; connects directly to Minuteman Bikeway
2	Central MA Priority	Assabet River Rail-Trail	5.6	Maynard, Hudson	http://www.traillink.com/trail/assabet-river-rail-trail.aspx (mileage uncertain)
3		Bedford Narrow Gauge Rail-Trail	3	Bedford	https://www.traillink.com/trail/bedford-narrow-gauge-rail-trail.aspx
4		Bruce Freeman Trail	4.9?	Westford [Carlisle, Acton (not yet built)]	https://www.traillink.com/trail-maps/bruce-freeman-rail-trail.aspx <i>Apparently planned but not built except for a short section in a far southeast corner of Westford going to Lowell through Chelmsford (7 mi total) -</i> http://massbike.org/resourcesnew/pathstrails/#metro_boston
6	Regional Trail; Central MA Priority	Mass Central Rail Trail	8	Hudson, Sudbury	https://www.traillink.com/trail/mass-central-rail-trail.aspx (mileage uncertain, two short sections along a much longer planned route)
7		Minuteman Bikeway	11	Arlington, Lexington, Bedford	https://www.traillink.com/trail/minuteman-bikeway.aspx
10	Central MA Priority	Nashua River Rail Trail	12.3	Ayer, Groton, Pepperell and Dunstable, MA; Nashua, NH	https://www.traillink.com/trail/nashua-river-rail-trail.aspx
11	Central MA Priority	North Central Pathway	7.5	Winchendon, Gardner	http://www.traillink.com/trail/north-central-pathway.aspx

¹ <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/services-and-assistance/grants-and-technical-assistance/massachusetts-greenway-and-trails.html>

² <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/stewardship/greenway/pdfs/central.pdf>

Final Map #	MassEEA list of regional trails? ¹ EEA top priority? ²	Official Name in TrailLink.com	Distance	Towns	TrailLink.com Web Site (or other)/Notes
12		Northern Strand Community Trail	3	Malden	https://www.trailink.com/trail/northern-strand-community-trail.aspx (mileage uncertain)
13		Reformatory Branch Trail	4	Bedford, Concord	https://www.trailink.com/trail/reformatory-branch-trail.aspx
*	Regional Trail; Central MA Priority	Mid-State Trail	35	Ashburnham, Fitchburg, Westminster, Leominster, Princeton	http://www.midstatetrail.org/map_page.html (mileage uncertain)
*		Minute Man NHP/Battle Road	5	Concord, Lincoln, Lexington	http://www.nps.gov/mima/planyourvisit/upload/MIMA%20Park%20Map.pdf
*		Mt. Watatic Trail	6?	Ashburnham	http://www.midstatetrail.org/mtwatatic.html ; http://www.summitpost.org/mount-watatic/152287 <i>Southernmost summit on the Wapack Trail; lies just east of the end of the Mid-State Trail. SEE MAPPING NOTE w Wapack Trail</i>
*		Wapack Trail	?	Ashburnham	http://www.wapack.org/map.html ; for map, add Wapack Trail and label key as "Wapack Trail and Mt. Watatic Trail" unless there's room for both in the legend. [Later note: we were unable to obtain GIS data to enable mapping.]
* Mentioned.					
THE FOLLOWING WERE INVENTORIED BUT NOT MAPPED; INFORMATION RETAINED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE					
	Regional Trail	Bay Circuit Trail		Westford, Carlisle, Acton, Bedford, Concord, Lincoln, Sudbury	http://baycircuit.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/BCTnobox1.pdf (mileage uncertain - appears to overlap with other trails)

Final Map #	MassEEA list of regional trails? ¹ EEA top priority? ²	Official Name in TrailLink.com	Distance	Towns	TrailLink.com Web Site (or other)/Notes
	Regional Trail	East Coast Greenway		Hudson, Sudbury	http://www.greenway.org/pdf/MA.pdf ; https://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&ll=41.852174,-71.633606&ssp=0.538056,0.888519&q=http://greenway.org/maps/ECG-MA2.kmz&ie=UTF8&output=classic&dq=feature (mileage overlaps with existing trails)
		Bike-To-The-Sea		Malden	<i>Apparently planned but not built</i>
		Mason Railroad Trail		Townsend, Groton	<i>Apparently planned but not built; ; appears also to be named Mason NH Rail Trail ext.</i>
		Mystic Way		Medford? Malden?	<i>Not sure this qualifies as regional trail</i>
		Tri-Community Bikeway		Woburn	<i>Apparently planned but not built;</i> http://www.tricomcommunitygreenway.org/maps
		Twin Cities Trail		Leominster, Fitchburg	<i>Apparently planned but not built</i>
		Ware River Rail-Trail		Winchendon?	http://www.traillink.com/trail/ware-river-rail-trail.aspx (Inclusion in our inventory may not be correct – it appears that the Ware River Rail Trail is outside the region – ends at Baldwinville in the Town of Templeton) (mileage uncertain)
New Hampshire					
5	NA	Mason Railroad Trail	7	Mason, Greenville	http://www.traillink.com/trail-maps/mason-railroad-trail.aspx
8	NA	Nashua Canal Trail (Mine Falls Park)	6	Nashua	http://www.traillink.com/trail/nashua-canal-trail-(mine-falls-park).aspx
9	NA	Nashua Heritage Rail-Trail	1.3	Nashua	http://www.traillink.com/trail/nashua-heritage-rail-trail.aspx
THE FOLLOWING WERE INVENTORIED BUT NOT MAPPED; INFORMATION RETAINED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE					
	NA	Granite Town Rail-Trail	3?	Milford	http://www.traillink.com/trail/granite-town-rail-trail.aspx (Only the 3-mile Milford portion appears in TrailLink.com, and a review there indicates that it is primarily a mountain-biking/hiking trail. It has proven impossible to

Final Map #	MassEEA list of regional trails? ¹ EEA top priority? ²	Official Name in TrailLink.com	Distance	Towns	TrailLink.com Web Site (or other)/Notes
					locate accurate GIS information about the Brookline section, which is mentioned in the TrailLink description of the Milford segment, but which appears to go by various names (the southern, Brookline portion appearing to be known as the Palmer/Bartell Rail Trail). The best map we could locate for the two together is here: http://www.nhmountainhiking.com/hike/granite/gpsgranite_biq.jpg . The Milford segment received a review by the NHDOT: https://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/bikeped/documents/milfordBrooklineReviewReport03302012.pdf (although the title includes Brookline, it appears to document only the Milford segment north of Lake Potanipo). It appears from this document that there are so many challenges to public use of this trail for non-locals that we ultimately decided not to include it in the final map.
	NA	Palmer/Bartell Rail Trail	4.5?	Brookline	See Granite Town Rail-Trail, above
		TOTAL MILEAGE Mapped	121.6?		

22 of 37 Mass cities and towns have at least one of the numbered trails above; 6 participate in more than one:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Arlington (2) | 7. Dunstable | 13. Lexington (2) | 19. Sudbury |
| 2. Ashburnham (3) | 8. Fitchburg | 14. Lincoln | 20. Westford |
| 3. Ayer | 9. Gardner | 15. Malden | 21. Westminster |
| 4. Bedford (3) | 10. Groton | 16. Maynard | 22. Winchendon |
| 5. Concord (2) | 11. Hudson (2) | 17. Pepperell | |
| 6. Concord | 12. Leominster | 18. Princeton | |

3 of 8 NH cities and towns have at least one of these trails; Nashua has 3

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|---------------|----------|---------------|
| 1. Greenville | 2. Mason | 3. Nashua (3) |
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